

COUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC General Military Information

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EVALUATION see below 25X1C PLACE OBTAINED 25X1C

NATURE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 13 March 1953

REFERENCES 25X1C

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [redacted] on 8 February 1953, a column of 1 jeep and 21 trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; and including 3 trucks towing a 76.2-mm AT gun each, was seen on the Senftenberg-Cottbus road.

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2. [redacted] in mid-February, all units stationed in Naumburg, except for the engineer units, were in the Lossa area. On 9 February, 120 to 150 trucks with covered numbers were seen on route on the bridge across the Saale River in Naumburg, proceeding toward Freiburg. During the night of 12 February, 12 JS-3 tanks [redacted] passed through Naumburg toward Freiburg. [redacted] on 18 February, several columns passed through Naumburg, proceeding toward Weissenfels. Ten trucks towing AA guns left the Bismarck Kaserne. On 10 February, 2 SU-76 guns and 15 trucks, each towing a 160-mm mortar.

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3. [redacted] on 14 February, a troop train consisting of 9 boxcars, each occupied by about 30 soldiers; and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying 8 trucks towing 120-mm mortars; and 6 T-34 tanks passed through Oberhof toward Meiningen.<sup>3</sup>

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4. [redacted] on 15 February, troops and materiel returning to the Taubentzien Kaserne in Wittenberg included: T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 1 x 85-mm AT gun, 1 amphibious vehicle with [redacted] and an undetermined number of motor vehicles including radio trucks and tank trucks; [redacted]

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- [redacted] and occupied by a total of about 180 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted] on 17 February, armored scout cars [redacted] and motor vehicles [redacted] occupied by about 220 soldiers, wearing red-bordered black epaulets; and carrying billeting equipment, gasoline barrels and food stuff,

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left the installation, proceeding toward Berlin.<sup>4</sup>

5. On 16 February, about 300 trucks were seen at the barracks camp and/or tent camp in the Klosterholz (woods) south of Grimma, between Klosterimbtschen and the Grimma-Grossbothen railroad line. Numerous soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and brassards patrolled the edge of the woods. Soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia; and black-bordered black epaulets. Source did not observe tank or artillery units.

Overhead lines extending in various directions were in the woods. The tents, each measuring 4 x 4 meters, were equipped with stoves, about 1 meter high. Troops and materiel seen en route from the barracks installations in Grimma to the Klosterholz on 15 February included: 2 jeeps and 3 trucks, occupied by each about 20 soldiers with cable-poles, at [redacted] and 2 sidecar motorcycles, armored scout cars [redacted] jeeps [redacted] a tank truck.

[redacted] occupied by personnel and carrying blankets, food stuff, sections of prefabricated houses, stoves and stove pipes and field kitchens

Sedans [redacted] occupied by officers continually shuttled between Grimma and the Klosterholz.

6. From 15 to 20 February, the Koenig Georg Kaserne in Dresden was occupied by about 1,300 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. On 15 February, 50 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and equipped with a JSU-11 gun [redacted] practiced the penetration of a position. [redacted]

7. From 15 to 20 February, the Wilder Mann Kaserne was occupied by about 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Four sidecar motorcycles were seen at driving practice at the Heller training area on 18 February, and 24 motorcycles occupied by each 2 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets were in the installation on 19 February. [redacted] on 19 February, 16 trucks towing heavy AA guns and occupied by each 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen on the Meissen-Badeburg road.

8. On 16 February, T-34 tanks [redacted] T-34/85 tanks [redacted] and 140 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen in Camp Nochten. [redacted] on 19 February, 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying full field pack arrived at the Weisswasser railroad station, coming from the direction of Cottbus. The unit left for Camp Nochten. [redacted] 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, carrying baggage and armed with carbines, left aboard a train toward Cottbus.

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1. [ ] Comment. [ ] on 12 and 13 February, reported large movements in the Cottbus-Welzow area of units stationed in Cottbus. [ ]. The column observed on 8 February also belonged to the 9th Mecz Div. The division probably held exercises in the area southwest of Cottbus in the first half of February, as was observed at the same time with other units in East Germany.

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2. [ ] Comment. The information from Naumburg supplements reports on large troops movements from 21 to 18 February in Thuringia. See [ ]. The information especially confirms that the units of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div stationed in Naumburg were assembled in the Lossa area prior to 12 February and that in addition to the shipments of elements of the division from the Lossa area to the Zeitz-Gera area between 12 and 14 February, other units moved to the Zeitz-Gera area by road. This possibility had previously been mentioned in the reference report.

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3. [ ] Comment. The train is fairly definitely believed to have carried elements of the 117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which went from Meiningen to Ohrdruf for a 2-day advanced combat practice firing. [ ]

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4. [ ] Comment. The columns observed on the two days belonged to the 3d Gds Mtrcl Bn of the 6th Gds Tank Div stationed in the Taubentzien Kaserne, Wittenberg. The elements which left the installation on 17 February, possibly left for several days, as the trucks carried billeting equipment.

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5. [ ] Comment. Compare with previous info [ ] on the Klosterholz area south of Grimma, [ ]. The troops observed presumably engaged in a signal practice which, in addition to the unidentified signal battalion of the 8th Gds Mecz Div stationed in the Elsner Kaserne in Grimma, probably also involved other signal units of the First Gds Mecz Army. [ ]

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6. [ ] Comment. The previous assumption that the 7th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div must be stationed in the Wilder Mann Kaserne rather than in the Koenig Georg Kaserne, where it was carried previously, is no longer maintained. [ ]. Available information indicates that heavy tanks were observed in both installations. The regiment, therefore, may be stationed in the Koenig Georg Kaserne as well as the Wilder Mann Kaserne. The 6th Mtrcl Bn is confirmed in the Wilder Mann Kaserne until 19 February.

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7. [ ] Comment. This observation confirms the continuation of the short-term advanced combat practice firing of units of the 9th Mecz Div in the Weisswasser training area until mid-February 1953.

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